and on-going exercise and changes are made as and when considered necessary, keeping in view the demand and supply position.

Indo-Israel Trade

752. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in which Indo-Israel trade has been established;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to expand Indo-Israel trade;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The main items of India's exports to Israel at present are gems & jewellery, textiles, agricultural commodities, handicrafts, engineering goods, etc. The main items of our imports from Israel are fertilizers pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, organic/inorganic chemicals, other crude minerals, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Potential areas identified for expansion of trade and cooperation for mutual benefit include project exports, chemicals and allied products, drugs & pharmaceuticals, electronic items, fruits and vegetables, solar energy, desalination of water, irrigation management, desert farming, telecommunication systems, dairy development, etc.

Decline in Exports

753. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem in the Statesman of 8th November, 1994 captioned "$ 600 m export loss in October" ;

(b) if so, whether the export figure has declined in the month of October;

(c) whether Government propose to contemplate any serious efforts to cover up the export performance during the remaining period of the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Despite adverse effects of plague, the exports estimated at $2198.25 million in October, 1994 are about 27% higher than those during October, 1993. The level of exports in October, 1994 is also higher than those during any month in the current financial year.

(c) and (d) Increasing the levels of exports is a continues and ongoing process. Export performance is closely monitored to take promotional measures and corrective action wherever and whenever require.

Import of Newsprint by STC

754. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of newsprint imported by the State Trading Corporation during 1993-94;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from newspapers regarding non supply of newsprint from STC during the above period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to provide incentives to